experience" was recently held in New Delhi in order to bring about more reforms in the Indian Petroleum Industry;

(b) if so, what major recommendations were made by the participants at the seminar; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to protect the intersts of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society by ensuring that beneficial effects reach/given to consumers both quality-wise and price-wise by undertaking reforms in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main aim of organising the seminar was to gain an understanding as to how other countries/international companies have dealt with the restructuring process to maintain their competitive advantage and meet the energy challenges of the future. No specifific recommendations were made at the seminar.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Passports Issued by Passport Offices in Punjab

1010. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by the passport offices in the State of Punjab, passport office-wise; and

(b) the number of applications pending with the passport offices in Punjab for the grant of passports as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The total number of passports issued by Passports Offices in the State of Punjab and passport applications pending with these Passport Offices, are as follows:

Passport Office	Total Number of Passports Issued during the period 1.1.1995 to 24.11.1995	Total Number of Passport Applications Pendings on 24.11.1995
Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh	93,017	11,704
Passport Office, Jalandhar	90,480	17,089

Scheme for development and growth of fruit and vegetable processing

1011. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme in the country particularly in the State of Punjab for the growth and development of fruit and vegetable processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries was set up in July, 1988 with a view to give a thrust to the development of food processing industries in the country. A strong and effective food processing sector plays a significant

supportive role in diversification and commercialisation of agriculture, improving value addition in the agricultural produce, helps in generating employment including rural employment and production of agro food products for export. To accelerate development of food processing industry including fruits and vegetable processing in the country, Government have liberalised its policies and procedures for investment, technology acquisition and foreign investment. It has also provided various fiscal concessions which *inter-alia* include withdrawal of excise duties on all fruits and vegetable products, meat and poultry products, fishery products, most milk products soya products, etc. In addition, this Ministry is also operating various Plan Schemes during the 8th Plan for development of various food processing industries including fruits and vegetable processing industry under which assistance are extended for setting up infrastructure/new or expansion/ upgradation of fruits and vegetable processing industry, setting up of Food Processing Training Centres in rural areas, research and development activities, backward linkage, quality control and marketing support.

Benefits of these policies and schemes have been applied for projects in the State of Punjab where under the liberalised policies, investment, both domestic and foreign, in the fruits and vegetable processing industry have already taken place. Some companies who have invested for fruits and vegetable processing in Punjab have also taken steps to develop horticultural, including fruits and vegetables, raw-material for their use by helping the farmers with technology for production, increasing their productivity and market support, thus bringing benefits to the farmers, and generating employment.

Ministry has also extended assistance under its Plan Schemes for setting up a mushroom production and processing unit and a honey processing unit and for developing backward linkage to fruits and vegetable processing in the State of Punjab.

सम्पादक की कार में बम रखवाए जाने से संबंधित सबूतों का गायब होना

1012. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "जनाधार भारती" पत्रिका के संपादक ने लगभग चार वर्ष पहले उनकी कार में बम रखवाने के मामले में जो सबूत मुहैया करवाए थे, उन सब सबूतों को दिल्ली पुलिस ने गायब कर दिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे सबूत क्या थे तथा सबूतों के गायब कर दिये जाने/किये जाने पर सरकार ने क्या कार्रवाई की तथा उक्त सबूतों के पाये जाने पर सरकार क्या कार्रवाई करने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उपरोक्त घटना की जाँच कर रहे तत्कालीन अधिकारी का स्थानांतरण कर दिया गया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो वह अधिकारी इस समय कहां और किस पद पर कार्यरत है; और

(ङ) उनके स्थानांतरण से उक्त मामले की जांच पर पड़ रहे प्रभाव पर सरकार का निर्णय और प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (प्रो० एम० कामसन): (क) जी नहीं, श्रीमान्।

(ख) उपयुक्त (क) को देखते हुये प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) मामले की जांच करने वाले अधिकारियों को प्रशासनिक आधारों पर स्थानान्तरित किया गया है न कि मामले के साक्ष्यों को खो देने/इनमें रद्दो बदल करने के कारण।

(घ) स्थानान्तरित किये गये तीनों अधिकारियों के मौजूदा तैनाती के स्थान तथा उनके पदनाम इस प्रकार हैं:—